

FOOTBALL

Victorian Premier League - Men



2009 Media Guide



Welcome to another season of top flight football.

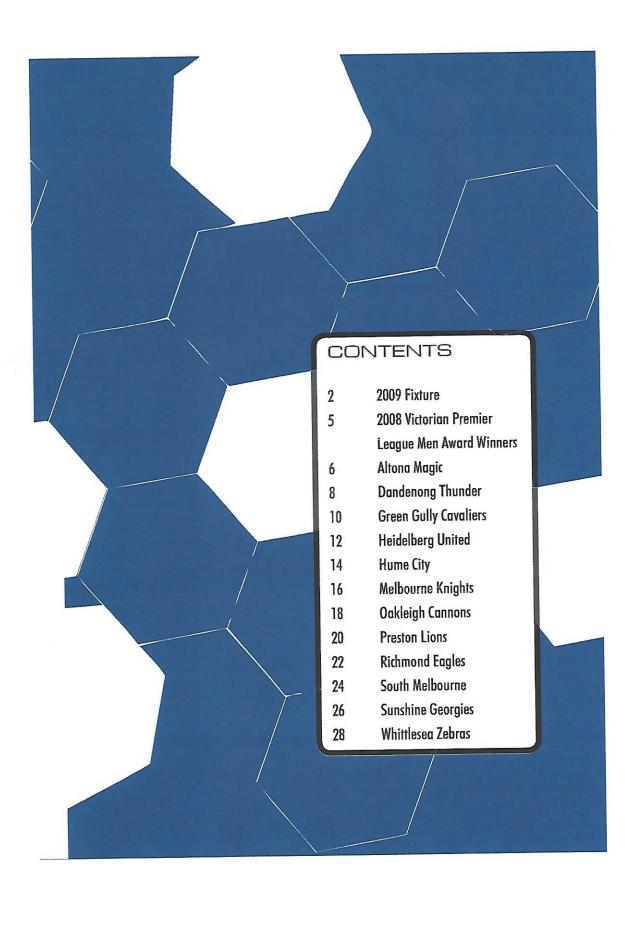
This year's Victorian Premier League Men's competition will again be fiercely contested, in a year that football in this state celebrates 125 years. Many of the 12 clubs that will compete for the championship in 2009 are powerhouses of Australian football history.

Heidelberg United, Preston, Sunshine, Green Gully. South Melbourne FC and Melbourne Knights have all played at a national level in the NSL. South Melbourne has gone as far as representing Oceania in the World Club Championship, and combined with Melbourne Knights have produced well over 50 Socceroos.

But all clubs in the league, from the oldest participant to the newly promoted Dandenong Thunder, represent important traditions in our game.

I wish all the clubs the very best of luck this season in their quest for team success.





27 Feb 8:30pm 27 Feb 8:30pm 1 Mar 4:00pm 1 Mar 5:00pm 1 Mar 5:00pm 1 Mar 6:00pm	Richmond Eagles Oakleigh Cannons Hume City Preston Lions Green Gully Cavaliers South Melbourne	V V V V	Whittlesea Zebras Heidelberg United Altona Magic Melbourne Knights Sunshine Georgies Dandenong Thunder	Kevin Bartlett Reserve Jack Edwards Reserve Broadmeadows Valley Park BT Connor Reserve Green Gully Reserve Bob Jane Stadium
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24 Jul 25 Jul 25 Jul 26 Jul 26 Jul	8:30pm 6:00pm 3:00pm 3:00pm	Oakleigh Cannons Dandenong Thunder Whittlesea Zebras Sunshine Georgies	V V V	Altona Magic Richmond Eagles Melbourne Knights Preston Lions	Jack Edwards Reserve George Andrews Reserve To Be Confirmed Chaplin Reserve
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26 Jul 27 Jul	4:00pm 8:30pm	South Melbourne Heidelberg United	V	Hume City Green Gully Cavaliers	Olympic Park (Village)

RO	DNL	TWENTY			
31 Jul	8:30pm	Oakleigh Cannons	V	South Melbourne	Jack Edwards Reserve
31 Jul	8:30pm	Richmond Eagles	٧	Heidelberg United	Kevin Bartlett Reserve
1 Aug	4:00pm	Green Gully Cavaliers	٧	Hume City	Green Gully Reserve
1 Aug	7:30pm	Altona Magic	V	Whittlesea Zebras	Paisley Park Soccer Complex
2 Aug	3:00pm	Preston Lions	V	Dandenong Thunder	BT Connor Reserve
2 Aug	3:00pm	Melbourne Knights	V	Sunshine Georgies	Knights Stadium

RO	DNL	TWENTY		NE	
7 Aug	8:30pm	Oakleigh Cannons	٧	Green Gully Cavaliers	Jack Edwards Reserve
8 Aug	6:00pm	Dandenong Thunder	٧	Melbourne Knights	George Andrews Reserve
9 Aug	3:00pm	Whittlesea Zebras	٧	Sunshine Georgies	To Be Confirmed
9 Aug	3:00pm	Heidelberg United	V	Preston Lions	Olympic Park (Village)
9 Aug	3:00pm	Hume City	V	Richmond Eagles	Broadmeadows Valley Park
9 Дил	4-00nm	Altona Magic	V	South Melbourne	Paisley Park Soccer Complex

2008 VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE MEN AWARD WINNERS

GOLD MEDAL LEADERBOARD

Graham Hockless (Heidelberg United) 32

Jeffrey Fleming (Green Gully) 30

Tony Sterjovski (Preston Lions) 30

Henry Fa'arodo (Altona Magic) 29

Craig Elvin (Melbourne Knights) 28

Ross Antoniadis (Whittlesea Zebras) 26

Carl Recchia (Altona Magic) 19

Steve Iosifidis (Melbourne Knights) 17

Ramazan Tavsancioglu (South Melb) 17

Trent Waterson (Oakleigh Cannons) 16

Kofi Danning (A.I.S.) 15

Jesse Krncevic (Richmond) 15

Goalkeeper of the Year: Steven Tilovski (Green Gully)

Bill Fleming Award (Media Player of the Year) Pablo Cardozo (Richmond)

Top Goal Scorer Pablo Cardozo (Richmond)

Coach of the Year Chris Taylor (Melbourne Knights)





Paisley Park Soccer Complex

Cnr of Mills Street & Ross Road

Altona North

Telephone

03 9391 4017

Email

altonamagicfc@hotmail.com

Website

www.altonamagic.com.au

ALTONA MAGIC

The defending champion has flown under the radar in the off-season, but is expected to field an ultra competitive side once more under 2008 championship winning coach Vlado Tortevski. This is mainly due to the fact they have managed to retain the bulk of the squad that defeated Melbourne Knights in the grand final last year, their first title in 11 years. But the Magic will carry the weight of expectation as a result, turning from the hunter to the hunted.

They have added some quality with Victorian Institute of Sport youngster Kilment Traseski, Frankston Pines, leading striker Adam Fadljevic and Altona City stalwart Tony Saric. The Magiás only key departure is captain Stiven Mrkela, who has crossed to South Melbourne.

Vlado Tortevski The Coach

Tortevski will always have a special place at Altona after guiding them to championship glory last season. "Attitude" has been a key word at Paisley Park in the off-season, thus meaning a title hangover is unlikely.

Tortevski appears to have the Magic as hungry as ever to taste more success.

Carl Recchia Key Player

The former Melbourne Victory player showed what he is capable of in the grand final last year with a best on pitch performance. He will wear the captains arm band in 2009 and will be determined to lead from the front.

Kilment Taseski Shooting Star

The youngster is a product of the Victorian Institute of Sport and big things are expected this year

HOME

Shirt Red & Black
Shorts Black

Socks Red

AWAY

Shirt White Shorts Black Socks Black **President** Millissa Fischer

Head Coach Vlado Tortevski

Team Manager Jason Erri

Media Officer Jason Erri

Mobile: 0414 363 007

E: altonamagicfc@hotmail.com

2009 PLAYING SQUAD

- 1. Nichola Roganovic
- 4. Steve Laurie
- 5. Doug Mladenovic
- 6. Con Anthopoulous
- 8. Carl Recchia (c)
- 10. Pece Cergovski
- 11. Kliment Taseski
- 12. Adam Fadljevic
- 13. Robert Naumovski
- 15. Mifit Bojku
- 17. Phillip Riccobene
- 18. Tony Saric
- 19. Slave Bozinovski
- 23. Nicholas Kalmar
- 36. Bojo Jeudjevic





Home Ground George Andrews Reserve

Trewin Street

Dandenong South

Capacity 3000 - 6000

Telephone 03 9706 7683

Fax 03 9706 7683

Email nait 69@hotmail.com

Postal Address PO Box 7060 Dandenong 3175

DANDENONG THUNDER

The new kids on the block will find out very quickly how tough it can be to hold a spot in the Victorian Premier League after earning promotion from State League One. South Eastern relatives Frankston, Kingston City and Springvale are all clubs who have earned promotion, only to lose their place just as quick in recent times.

One positive for the Thunder is they will be under the expert tutelage of the highly respected Stuart Munro, who has VPL coaching experience and knows what it takes to build a side. Dandenong has retained a fair portion of its state league squad, but has failed to attract key VPL signings.

Theyill have a UK flavour with Sam Bailey, James Thomas and Jack Hingert joining the club from abroad, while fellow Englishman Colin Quirk and Aaron Wilford have made the step up to Premier league from State League dub Southern Stars.

Stuart Munro The Coach

Munro himself has said that even he does not know the potential of his squad, thus it's hard to predict just how they'll fair in the top flight. They have drawn some tough fixtures to start the year against championship fancy South Melbourne FC, Green Gully and Oakleigh Cannons, the latter who he coached last year. Munro's guidance and management skill will be vital if they are to avoid relegation.

Marcus Stergiopolos Key Player

The reliable and experienced Stergiopolos has a crucial role to play in guiding a young and green combination through the rigors of VPL football.

Hamlet Armenian Shooting Star

Will be desperate to establish himself as a first choice top flight player.

HOME

Red with Black Shirt

Black **Shorts** Socks Black

AWAY

White with Red Shirt

Shorts White Socks White

Driton Maliku **President**

Stuart Munro **Head Coach**

(Oakleigh Canons)

Assistant Coach Dougy Houghshon

(Frankston Pines)

Merson Azizi Team Manager

Media Officer Nait Ragipi

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2009 PLAYING SQUAD

Stuart Webster

Marcus Stergopolous

Shane Rexhepi

Fitim Ibraimi

Jack Hingert

Ryan Davidson

Sam Bailey

Ibraim Ibraimi

Colin Quirk

Mohamed Alkasaran

Aron Wilford

Veton korcari

Hamlet Armenian

Joey Diorio

Rinor Muriqi

Denis Ukalovski

Shaqir Elmazi

Ivan Klarica

Mark Burton

James Thomas

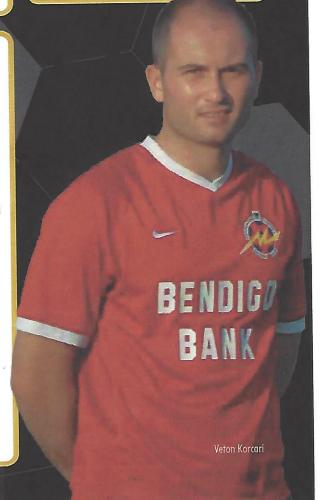
Yehya Dimassi

Levant Osman

Mentor Memeti

Benji Vahid

*numbers not supplied





Green Gully Reserve

Green Gully Road

Keilor Downs

Telephone

03 9366 6697

Fax

03 9367 1218

Email

ggullysc@bigpond.net.au

Website

www.greengully.com

Postal Address

PO Box 136 St Albans 3021

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

Last year's minor premier may be about to undergo a changing of the guard. Experience coach lan Dobson decided to move on after the disappointment of not taking his men to at least the play-off in 2008, after finishing the regular season on top of the table.

Key Brazilian play-maker Pedro Oliveria, the talented Koce Delev and forward Campbell Banks followed suit; all quality players who need replacing. But new coach David Winton has managed to stabilise the club in his short time as the top dog, even attracting quality players across to Green Gully Reserve. Electrifying Richmond Eagles striker Pablo Cardozo has crossed clubs in the off season and is determined to make his mark, while there are big wraps on 25 year-old UK signing Daniel White.

Green Gully has developed a habit of winning, and habits can be hard to shake.

David Winton The Coach

Winton has made the big step up from coaching at under 21 level in 2008 to taking charge of the senior team. His Green Gully under 21 team won last year's championship on the bit, finishing seven points ahead of its nearest rival.

By all reports, he has a great rapport with the younger guys and an eye for talent.

Pablo Cardozo Key Player

Without a doubt, all eyes will be on Pablo this season. He was the most damaging striker in the competition last year for finalist Richmond Eagles, finishing with the Golden Boot.

Joel Nikolic Shooting Star

Emerged as one of the most talented strikers in the VPL last season, and at 23, is ready to take his game to another level.

HOME

Shirt Green & White
Shorts Green & White
Socks Green

AWAY

Shirt Green & White Shorts Green & White

Socks Green

President Charles Farrugia

Head Coach David Winton

Club Secretary Raymond Mamo

Team Manager Paul Borg

Media Officer Markian Jaworsky

Mobile: 0402 224 597 E: ggullysc@bigpond.net.au

2009 PLAYING SQUAD

1. Patric Ndongo 17. Andy Vargas

2. Kristian Ivesic 18. Joel Nikolic

3. Steven Burton 23. Steven Tilovski

4. Dean Fak

5. Cameron Drake

6. Kole Delev

7. Jeffret Fleming

8. Aziz Behich

9. Daniel White

11. Pablo Cardozo

10. John Adam

12. Matthew Sanders

19. Diogo Ferreria

14. Ryan Ollerton

16. Mile Medjedovic





Olympic Park

Catalina Street

Keilor Downs

Capacity

15,000

Telephone

03 9459 3109

Fax

03 9459 3109

Website

www.heidelbergunitedsc.com.au

Postal Address

PO Box 8214 Northland Centre

Preston Vic 3072

HEIDELBERG UNITED

Heidelberg United will look to ride the wave of a spirited 2008 finals series when hostilities resume this year. The Warriors captured the imagination of the football public when they stormed through to the preliminary final, only to go down to Melbourne Knights. In doing so, they won a lot of admirers and, importantly, confidence.

A championship might just be around the corner for this proud dub, who last tasted the ultimate glory in 2001. They have only bolstered their stocks in terms of talent, and again have the revered George Katsakis in charge.

A title doesnit seem beyond them with players such as reigning Gold Medalist Graham Hockless, new Sydney FC signing Bob Petra and inspirational captain Tony Ouliaris.

George Katsakis The Coach

Katsakis has a knack of squeezing every last ounce of ability from his playing list. He will again ride them hard this year given the opportunity in front of them and the in-roads made in 2008. He has instilled spirit and confidence, and has his squad playing winning football even before the season proper, guiding them into the Hellenic Cup final.

Graham Hockless Key Player

It's hard to go past Hockless as the Warriors most important player. Was rewarded for an outstanding 2008 season with the FFV Gold Medal.

Rudi Saglam Shooting Star

The 17 year-old is likely to be used as a burst player, but could develop into a regular starter with his creativity through the midfield.

HOME

Shirt Black & Yellow

Shorts Black

Socks Black

AWAY

Shirt Black & Yellow

Shorts Black
Socks Yellow

President Nick Katsakis

Head Coach George Katsakis

Team Manager Jamie Paton

Media Officer Elias Deliyannis

Mobile: 0418 351 526 E: tandm@bluep.com

2009 PLAYING SQUAD

00 (mm) 000 (mm)

1.Peter Gavalas 17.Marinos Gasparis

2.Peter Roberts 18.Osagie Ederaro

3.Daniel Jones 19.Sebastian Mattei 4.Tony Ouliaris 20.Dennis Alilovic

5.Neven Antic

6.Eric Vassiladis

7.Anthony Magnacca

8.Jim Drossos

9.Mark Tsiorlas

10.Graham Hockless

11.Bob Petta

12.James Stefanou

14.Emir Ameti

15.Tas Psonis

16.Ridvan Saglam





Home Ground Broadmeadows Valley Park

(John Ilhan Memorial Reserve)

Broadmeadows

Telephone 03 9386 7988

Fax 03 9386 9726

Email gulce@kayagr.com

Website www.humecityfc.com

Postal Address Suite 4/215 Sydney Road

HUME CITY

Hume City, formerly Coburg United, have been one of the most active dubs in the off-season, and as a result interest in the dub has boomed. They re-locate from Knights Stadium to Broadmeadows Valley Park this season and are determined to create a fortress at home.

The turn-over of players has been enormous, but they seem to have built a stronger side than the one that stayed afloat in the top flight last year.

Adelaide United defender Izzy Erdogan is the marquee signing, while Zoran Petrevski has crossed from grand finalist Melbourne Knights, as has Preston Lions pair Tony Sterjovski and Louie Acevski. Oakleigh Cannon Jonathon Minos has also joined Hume City.

Goran Lozanovski The Coach

Lozanovski has a football resume the envy of many which no doubt has had a big impact in attracting quality players to the club. The former Socceroo was impressive in the top post last year and had his troops playing solid, competitive VPL football. The challenge now will be converting solid football, into quality football capable of standing up in finals.

Izzy Erdogan Key Player

Erdogan joins Hume City after only having his Adelaide United contract terminated in January this year, due to chronic hamstring problems. He has been working hard to get his body right, and providing it holds up he should be one of the players to watch this season.

Jason Davidson Shooting Star

Hume City will be eager to see Davidson develop into a quality player in 2009.

HOME

Shirt Red Shorts Red Socks Red

AWAY

Shirt White Shorts White Socks White

President Steve Kaya

Head Coach Goran Lozanovski

Team Manager Hakan Dogan

Media Officer Ezel Hikmet

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2009 PLAYING SQUAD

- 1. Adam Hrehoresin
- 2. Mehmet Karakilic
- 3. Jason Davidson
- 4. Beni Brendan
- 5. Ahmet Gurpinar
- 6. Serdar Pir
- 7. Isyan Erdogan
- 8. Alfonso Opazo
- 9. Ramazan Sauren
- 10. Toni Sterjovski
- 15. Zoran Petrevski
- 17. Caner Icarci
- 19. Turhan Sumbul
- 20. Nick Harruy
- 30. Lupce Acevski





Knights Stadium

2 Somers Street

Sunshine North

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12,000

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Email

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Website

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MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Melbourne Knights went dose to landing the silverware last year, and may well rue the missed opportunity with the competition expected to improve this season. But being the Melbourne Knights, they could well make up for that lost opportunity also. It's hard to read just where the Knights sit on the pecking order heading into the year after a host of off-season departures.

The loss of Andrew Barisic to Gold Coast, Tomislav Milardovic, Ivan Franjic and Dario Matkovic will be felt, while veteran Joe Spiteri has retired. It has created a lot of opportunity for the next crop of players to make their mark. Experienced coach Chris Taylor and his support staff have still managed to recruit to off-set some of the losses.

The main signing is the return of young gun Mate Duganzdic from Croatian dub Dinamo Zagreb. He will generate plenty of interest this year.

Chris Taylor The Coach

Taylor is a perfectionist and the loss to Altona Magic in last years grand final would still be stinging. He will have a vastly different looking side this year, but could mould a formidable one.

Craig Elvin Key Player

Elvin's leadership is first class and he remains one of the Knights most influential and important players. He will don the captains arm band again.

Mate Duganzdic Shooting Star

Expect the unexpected from this emerging talent, fresh from a stint in Europe.

HOME

Shirt Red Shorts White Socks Blue

AWAY

Shirt White Shorts White Socks White

Chairman Matt Tomas

President

Ange Cimera

Head Coach

Chris Taylor

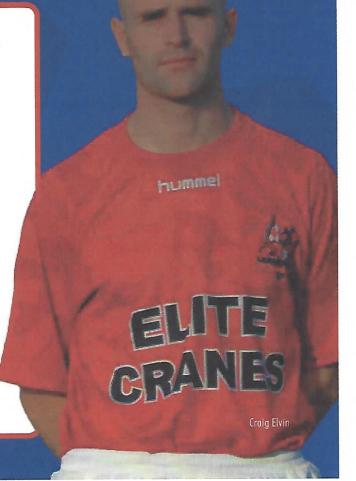
Media Officer

Matt Tomas Mobile: 0423 551 111

E: admin@melbourneknights.com.au

2009 PLAYING SQUAD

- 1. Savas Ozdemir
- 2. Jamie Cumming
- 4. John Fitzgerald
- 6. Matthew Grbesa
- 7. Mate Dugandzic
- 8. Cameron Watson
- 9. Joshua Groenwald
- 10. Greg Draper
- 11. Dimi Hatzimouratis
- 13. Mellih Becket
- 14. Craig Elvin (c)
- 16. Frankie Lagana
- 17. Petar Fraijic
- 18. Alex Kiratzoglou
- 19. Liam Cainell





Jack Edwards Reserve

Edward Street Oakleigh

Telephone

03 9568 8618

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03 9370 0807

Website

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Postal Address

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OAKLEIGH CANNONS

Oakleigh Cannons went close to making the Victorian Premier League finals series last year, and will be motivated by the fact it just missed out. They have changed coach in the off season with former South Melbourne FC championship winning manager John Anastasiadis taking the reigns.

Their form during the pre-season suggests they are going to be there abouts again, earning a Hellenic Cup semi-final berth, but perhaps the barometer of the teamis success will be the development of the younger players.

Melbourne Victory Youth pair Stephen Hatzikostas and Robert Wayne have signed with the club, and their progress, along with a few other youngsters, could prove telling.

John Anastasiadis The Coach

Anastasiadis has the runs on the board and his experience and tactical nous could be what is needed to lift Oakleigh into the finals. He'll be looking to improve on their seventh placing of 2008.

Ricky Diaco Key Player

A fit Diaco will play a vital role up front for the Cannons, and they'll need him to return to somewhere near his best.

Kristopher Kioussis Shooting Star

Kioussis has joined the Cannons from Bentleigh Green, and the 16 year old has impressed in the pre-season.

HOME

Shirt Blue Shorts Blue Socks Blue

AWAY

Shirt White Shorts White Socks White

President Stan Papayianneris

Head Coach John Anastasiadis

Team Manager George Babatsias

Media Officer Aki loannas

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2009 PLAYING SQUAD

1. Adrian Cagalj 17. Ivan Franjic

2. Kris Kioussis 18.Alex Rojas

3. Simon Mur 19. Bill Gasparinatos

4. George Lambadaridis 20. Ari Drakos

5. Felix Rosman (c) 21. Dario Matkovic

6. Stelios Drakos 22. Ramsey Nasser

7. Trent Waterson 23. Srdjan Stefanovic

8. Bonel Obradovic 25. Scott Webster

10. Ricky Diaco 27. Robert Wynne

11. Juan Nilo 28. Mathew Wilkinson

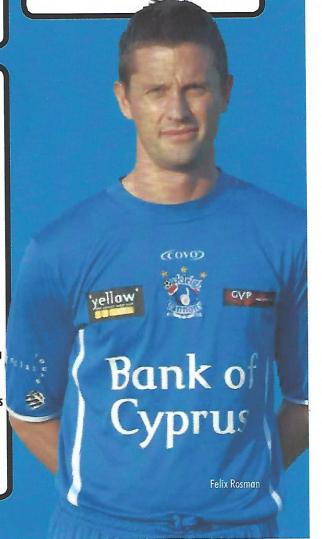
12. Milos Lujic 35. Scott Agustin

13.Bill Damianos 40.Dean Anastasiadis

14. Jerry Karpeh

15.Stephen Hatzikostas

16.Dean Panagopoulos





Home Ground B.T. Connor Reserve

Broadhurst Avenue

Reservoi

Capacity 8,000 (1,000 seats in G.S)

Telephone 03 9469 4842

Fax 03 9460 5571

Email preston.lions.fc@gmail.com

Website www.prestonlions.com

Postal Address PO Box 382 Preston 3072

PRESTON LIONS

PRESTON has had far from an ideal preparation with the resignation of its coach and the departure of several key players. John Markovski parted company with the Lions almost a month out from kick-off, and to impact matters, Lou Acevski, Tony Sterjovski, Nick Schwal, Les Anastasiou and Johnny Sapazovski also left BT Connor Reserve.

But the Lions, celebrating their 50th year in 2009, are a resilient club and have steadied the ship in recent weeks. They appointed former coach Zoran Trajcevski not long after the news of Markovski's exit, and have gone down the youth path in an attempt to hold ground in the upper echelon of the VPL.

They played finals last year, but will have to gel quickly as a new group if they want to repeat that feat.

Zoran Trajcevski The Coach

Trajcevski has come to the rescue and is no stranger to BT Connor Reserve, having led the Lions to finals in 2004. He also coached the newly promoted Dandenong Thunder in State League One last year.

Michael Bosevski Key Player

Bosevski will captain the club this year and his role will take on greater significance given the departure of so many experienced players.

Stuart Wilson Shooting Star

Wilson has signed on from the Victorian Institute of Sport. Has talent to burn.

HOME

Shirt Red & Black
Shorts Black

Shorts Blac Socks Red

AWAY

Shirt Yellow (Red Trim)
Shorts Yellow (Red Trim)

Socks Yellow

President Cvetan Veljanovski

Head Coach Zoran Trajceski

Team Manager Ace Stojanovski

Media Officer Pece Siljanovski

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1. Aleksandar Stojanovski

3. Michael Bosevski 19. Lupce Koceski

4. Mario Ladnjak 21. Damir Salcin

5. Chris Toleski 23. Igor Kolevski

6. Thomas Tolevski 29. Serkan Oksuz 7. Marko Lazarevic 33. Goce Gruevski

8. Robert Najdovski 40. Nasser Curo

9. Robert Dolevski

10. Blaze Georgioski

11. Michael Miskas

14. Igor Arsovski

15. Stuart Wilson

16. Bale Micovski

17. Ivan Filipovic

18. Zeljko Popovic





Home Ground Kevin Bartlett Reserve

F.R. Smith Drive

Richmond

Capacity 500

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RICHMOND EAGLES

Richmond, one of the bolters of 2008, will undergo a complete restructure up front this season after losing star pair Pablo Cardozo and Jesse Krncevic. Krncevic returns to Germany while Pablo Cardozo will line-up against the Eagles with Green Gully. Replacing him looms as the biggest challenge at Kevin Bartlett Reserve, considering his impact last year with over 20 goals, winning the Golden Boot.

The Eagles will still carry plenty of momentum having played finals for the first time last year, while the addition of some experienced players will help. Lorenz Kindtner and Joern Heineke both have European experience and have signed under coach Michael Chatzitrifonos. Then there is Daniel Visevic and Nick Robinson. Visevic left Melbourne Knights to have a crack with Croatian club Dinamo Zagreb, while Robinson was with Manchester based club FC United, who compete in the Northern Premier League Premier Division in England

The squad, despite the departure of Cardozo, could be stronger than last year.

Michael Chatzitrifonos The Coach

Led the club to finals for the first time in 2008 and looks to have another talent riddled squad at his disposal. His major challenge will be finding different avenues to goal.

Richie Cardozo Key Player

Richie has decided to stick with Richmond and his creativity through the middle of the pitch will be vitally important. He also found the back of the net on 10 occasions last year.

Andrew Viola Shooting Star

Viola, a former Richmond under 21 captain, would have ear marked a starting position in 2009 after having a taste of the top flight last year.

HOME

Shirt White Shorts Black Socks White

AWAY

Shirt Green
Shorts Black
Socks White

President Helmut Kalitzki

Head Coach Michael Chatzitrifonos

Team Manager Sam Lavert & Mark Boric

Media Officer Manfred Kuhn

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2009 PLAYING SQUAD

- 1. Peter Zois
- 2. Danny Black
- 4. Terry Antoniadis
- 3. Erhan Karahan
- 5. Stuart McCluskey
- 6. Dimitri Tsiaras
- 7. Daniel Visevic
- 9. George Goutzioulis
- 10. Richie Cardozo
- 11. Nick Kalambokis
- 14. Michael Catalano
- 17. Lorenz Kindtner
- 20. Nemanja Govedarica
- 22. Rani Dowisha
- 31. Andrew Viola





Bob Jane Stadium

25 Albert Road Drive

Albert Park

Capacity

14,000

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SOUTH MELBOURNE

In the clubs 50th year, South Melbourne FC is hell-bent on marking the significant occasion by adding another championship to its trophy cabinet. It has enjoyed a flawless pre-season, winning the Hellenic Cup final over Heidelberg United at John Cain Reserve. Memberships are booming at Bob Jane Stadium, and expectations are that Australia's most successful football dub is set for a return to prominence.

One of the biggest VPL off-season signings was Vaughan Coveny, who has spent the last four season's in the A League with Newcastle Jets and Wellington Phoenix. Highly rated Keeper Tommi Tommich and Rama Tavsancioglu head up a strong defensive unit, while the addition of Stivien Mrkela from reigning champion Altona Magic will only make it harder for teams to score against them. Fernando De Moraes is flying through the middle of the park and Gianni De Nittis will most likely form a two pronged strike partnership with Coveney.

Itis a big year for South Melbourne FC, and their football department appears to have prepared accordingly after a disappointing 2008.

Michael Mikalakopoulos The Coach

Michalakopoulos took the reigns at Bob Jane Stadium in April last year, and will be looking for an improved effort from his charges in 2009. He had previously coached Essendon Royals and 2007 runner-up Whittlesea Zebras in the VPL, and was part of 1991 South Melbourne national title winning squad as a player.

Vaughan Coveny Key Player

The man they call 'Horse' will rejoin the dub where he was a favorite son before embarking on A League stints with the Newcastle Jets and his native Wellington Phoenix in New Zealand. He is a two time championship winning player with South Melbourne and was also a member of the team that competed at the FIFA World Club Championships in Brazil in 2000.

Goran Zoric Shooting Star

Zoric, in his second year at the club, has enjoyed a solid preparation and will be looking to make his mark.

HOME

Shirt Blue Shorts Blue Socks Blue

AWAY

Shirt White Shorts White Socks

President Leo Athanasakis

Head Coach Michael Michalakopoulos

Team Manager Frank Piccione

Media Officer George Kouroumalis

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2009 PLAYING SQUAD

1. Tommi Tomich 17. Stiven Mrkella

2. Shane Nunes 18. Dejan Radjicic

3. Rhodri Payne 19. Goran Zoric

4. Steven O'Dor 20. Nathan Caldwell

5. Con Blatsis 21. Stefan Sardelic

6. Eddie Cetkin 23. Sebastian Petroviç

7. Nic Curtis

41. Andrew Sfetcopoulos

8. Vaughn Coveny

9. Gianni De Nittis

10. Joseph Youseff

11. Yusef Yusef

12. Sam Torrens

13. Francesco Stella

14. Ramazan Tavsancioglu

15. Fernando De Moraes





Home Ground Char

Chaplin Reserve

Anderson Road

Sunshine

Capacity

3,000

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SUNSHINE GEORGIES

It will be operation 'Stay Put' for Sunshine Georgies this season as it tries to cement a permanent position in the Victorian Premier League. Georgies were relegated from the top flight at the end of the 2007 season, but showed its resilience and fighting quality in 2008 by winning the State League One championship to earn promotion straight back up. The challenge now is to stay put, and their focus must switch to winning enough points at home pitch, Chaplin Reserve, to ensure they do.

Vasco Trpcevski will give the side a hard edge and his experience is much needed, but they will need to rely on improvement from within the dub. Looms as a tough year, but under coach Andy O'Dell, they'll push hard to hold ground.

Andy O'Dell The Coach

O'Dell is highly rated down at Sunshine Georgies and had his team playing passionate, in-your-face football last year which ultimately led to State League One success. Has some exciting talent to work with.

Martin John Key Player

John will shoulder the weight of his sidess hopes from the last line of the pitch. He is an immensely talented goal keeper with natural leadership qualities.

David Calleja Shooting Star

A product of the Georgies junior structure, the youngster will get ample opportunity in 2009 to showcase his skill and

HOME

Shirt Red & White

Shorts Red

Socks Red

AWAY

Shirt White Shorts White

Socks White

President Charlie Borg

Head Coach Andy O'Dell

Club Secretary Steven Wardle

Team Manager Paul Calleja

Media Officer Steven Wardle

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2009 PLAYING SQUAD

1. Martin John 16.Antoni Pecora

2. Wayne Wallace 17.Jack Webster

3. Thomas Johnston 18. Phil Cutler

4. Mathew Cini 19. John Baros

5. Vasko Trpcevski

6. David Calleja

7. John Black

8. Steve Underwood

9. Steven Manceski

10.George Papadopoulos

11.Peter Kotsoupias

12.Ben Cogger

13.Neal Scott

14.John Sapazovski

15.Chris Kontas





TBA

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10,000

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WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS

The season couldn't start quick enough for Whittlesea Zebras. They endured a disastrous campaign in 2008, narrowly avoiding relegation after playing off in the VPL grand final in 2007. A greater output from senior players is expected this year and the dub has shored up its stocks with the addition of some proven performers.

Former players Josip Kozic, Tex Apostalikis and Marco Santilli have all returned to the Zebras, while reliable captain Ross Antoniadis will lead the side again in a positive sign. With competition expected to be at an all-time high this year, Whittlesea will need to raise the bar if it wants to return to finals action.

Ivan Jolic The Coach

Jolic was said to be seething about the performance of his side last year and has spent the summer months trying to reinstill a winning culture. He has enticed some old heads back to the club for that very reason, and let go several players as a result of last season's failure. Expect a more aggressive Jolic coached team this campaign.

Ross Antoniadis Key Player

Antoniadis is the heart and soul of the dub and proved his value again last year by finishing sixth in the Gold Medal with 26 votes.

Julian Cassano Shooting Star

Cassano, just 16, has enjoyed a superb pre-season and is likely to get an opportunity at senior level.

HOME

Shirt Black & White Shorts White & Black Socks White & Black

AWAY

Shirt Blue Shorts Blue Socks Blue President Chris Dzanovski

Head Coach Ivan Jolic

Team Manager Joseph Sala

Media Officer Frank Carbone

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2009 PLAYING SQUAD

1. Kenny Gerochristodoulou

2. Simon Symeoy 16. Steve Martin

3. John Angelovski 17. Mark Pistininzi

4. Ross Antoniadis (c) 18. Nick Sarbin

5. Stefan Piorkowski 19. Julian Cassano

6. Sime Kovacevic 20. Robert Simeoni

7. Marko Kuna 21. Haydan D'Agostino

8. Andrea Lombardo 22. Greg Lombardo

9. Tex Apostalikas

10. Josip Kozic

11. Marco Santilli

12. Mark Vazocchi

13. Brandon Vassallo

14. Edemar Garcia

15. Ryan O'Hare



